



PAETEC

NEWS RELEASE

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**PAETEC Commends FCC Adoption of Procedural Rules on
Forbearance Petitions**

*New Rules, which were proposed by PAETEC and others, will promote
broadband competition*

FAIRPORT, N.Y. – July 9, 2009 – PAETEC Holding Corp. (NASDAQ GS: PAET), expresses appreciation to the Federal Communications Commission (“FCC”) for adoption of procedural rules on forbearance petitions which will promote fairness and lead to more informed decision-making. The new rules are a welcome change at the FCC. “Ensuring a regulatory structure that promotes a competitive telecommunications environment will benefit businesses through availability of new communication technologies and improved services at a better value and assist in the economic recovery,” said PAETEC Vice President of Public Policy & Regulatory, William A. Haas.

PAETEC also applauds the announcement of the FCC’s broadband initiative at the July 2, 2009, Open Meeting. “We look forward to engaging with the new members of the FCC on several important policy initiatives such as special access reform that PAETEC believes are vital components of the FCC’s omnibus broadband initiative,” said Arunas A. Chesonis, PAETEC chairman and CEO. “One of the primary objectives of the broadband initiative should be to safeguard economically -priced last mile connections used to provide the vast majority of broadband services to business customers today.”

In light of a recent D.C. Court of Appeals order, that work will include careful consideration of the remand of Verizon Communications Inc. forbearance petitions in six major northeastern cities. “Because PAETEC utilizes special access rather than

unbundled network elements to serve our end users in Verizon markets when we lease last mile facilities, the Court’s remand has no immediate effect on PAETEC,” said Mr. Chesonis. “However, PAETEC will encourage the FCC to undertake a thorough analysis during the remand to make sure that UNE forbearance is granted only when it is truly in the public interest of promoting competitive choice for business customers.”

About PAETEC

PAETEC (NASDAQ: PAET) is personalizing business communications for medium and large businesses, enterprise organizations and institutions across the United States. We offer a comprehensive suite of IP, voice, data, and Internet services, as well as enterprise communications management software, network security solutions, CPE, and managed services. For more information, visit www.paetec.com.

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